THE BLOOMFIELD CITIZEN.

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POOR BARRETT.

TERRIBLE NIGHT'S EXPERIENCE OF ONE OF THE TOWN'S UNFORTUNATES.

In a State of Delirium He Jumped from a Window in the Third Floor of the Poor House and Wandered Barefooted All Night in the Snow—Chief Collins Found the Man Nearly Dead in an Out-House on a Brookdale Farm—Now in the Hospital with Little Hope of Recovery.

William Barrett, well known about town, is in the Mountainside Hospital suffering from exposure and is likely to die. Barrett, while in a state of delirium, jumped out of a window in the third story of the town house in Brookdale after midnight Thursday night, clad only in a pair of pants and shirt and wandered about in the snowstorm until he found shelter in an out-house on John Kent's premises, known as the "blue corner," in Brookdale.

Barrett is a homeless man and has obtained an existence by doing odd jobs around saloons and other places. He slept at nights in a barn on Race street. Word was sent to police headquarters on Wednesday morning that he was ill and unable to help himself. Chief Collins went to the barn and found the man in a bad state and called Overseer of the Poor Adam Lind to his relief. Mr. Lind took Barrett to the town house and provided him with clothing and medical attendance. On Thursday morning Barrett informed the matron of the poor house that he had not slept well and had been troubled with frightful dreams. Late Thursday Fred Maint, an occupant of the poor house, was awakened after midnight by a loud crashing noise. He was startled to find that a window on the second floor was smashed and a quantity of bedding was lying out on the kitchen roof. He hastily dressed himself and went and aroused the matron, Mrs. Richenberg. She got up quickly and dressed and began an investigation. When the third floor was reached the matron was surprised to find Barrett's room empty. It was evident that he had gone. He had opened the window in his room and threw the bed covering out on the kitchen roof and then jumped from the window to the roof. He evidently fell over against the window of the second floor when he landed on the roof and smashed it in. He next jumped from the kitchen roof to the ground and landed in a rose bush in the yard. The matron as soon as she realized the situation began a search of the premises for the missing man. All parts of the house were searched and all the out-houses. His footprints were still visible in the snow about the premises and bloodstains in the snow showed that he had been cut by broken glass. A short distance from the house the snow had drifted and the footprints were no longer to be seen.

The matron went down to the police station and informed Mr. Lind and Chief of Police Collins of what had happened. The Chief immediately procured a sleigh and drove rapidly to Brookdale and began a search for the poor unfortunate, expecting at any time to find him dead on the road side. It was quite some time before the Chief could get on the track of the wanderer. Finally, acting on the knowledge that Barrett was an old canaler, it was assumed that he might follow the canal towpath. The theory proved correct, and along the towpath impressions of footprints were found, which were pretty well filled with snow that had fallen after some one had passed along that way. The Chief pushed away the top snow and found that the footprints underneath were blood stained. He followed the footprints along the towpath as far as the Passaic avenue canal bridge, and then the trail was lost, as the man had left the towpath at that point. After a diligent search in the vicinity of the bridge the blood stained footprints were again found on the Paterson road and indicated that the man was on ahead. Inquiry was made at all the farm houses along the road, but without any result until John Kent's was reached, when Mr Kent said that his wife had discovered footprints in the snow around the house when she went out at an early hour in the morning and the tracks showed that the man had been at the kitchen door.

Chief Collins then searched Mr. Kent's barn and other buildings and in an unused out-house he found Barrett lying on the ground nearly dead. He presented a horrible sight. His head was swollen to an unnatural size and his eyes, which are naturally protrusive, appeared about to burst from his head. He was barefooted and his feet were cut and swollen. A quantity of wrappings were procured and Barrett was lifted into the sleigh and taken to the Mountainside Hospital. He was still in a delirious state. There is but little hope of the man's recovery from his terrible exposure.

The attention of those interested in real estate speculation is called to the advertisement of Hugh D. King in this issue of the CITIZEN.

Mr. Elmendorf's Lecture.

Dwight L. Elmendorf, the popular lecturer, who has appeared here so many times under the auspices of the First Presbyterian Church Guild was here again Monday night on the occasion of the sixth entertainment in the Guild course of the current season. It is no easy matter to speak in a comparative way of Mr. Elmendorf's illustrated lectures, for there are many people who, at the close of each of them, declare it the finest he has ever given. Mr. Elmendorf never fails to afford a delightful evening's entertainment. His pictures are always a marvellous exemplification of the finest work of the camera, and he has the faculty of getting the pictures of objects and places that people are most desirous of seeing, and there is never anything dull or prosy about his descriptive talk.

The mere mention of the fact that Mr. Elmendorf is to be here is sufficient to crowd the large First Church. This was the case Monday night, when one of the largest crowds ever gathered at a Guild entertainment was present, and Mr. Elmendorf's illustrated lecture "The Pacific Coast from San Diego to Portland," delighted the people. Again the verdict at the close was "Best lecture ever given," and the people were enthusiastic in their praise of it.

By means of Mr. Elmendorf's splendid pictures the audience saw realistic views of the Pacific coast marvels in the way of fruits, flora-trees, mountains, lakes and waterfalls. Scenes from San Diego, Santa Barbara, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Monetrey, the Yosemite Valley, and along the Columbia River in Oregon were put on the canvas, and also a number of moving pictures of great interest, particularly the forest scene depicting the cutting down of large trees.

The next entertainment in the Guild course will be held on Monday evening, February 15, when the Rev. Donald Sage McKay, D. D., of the Collegiate Church will give a lecture.

Criticised the Council.

Founder James A. Bradley and Henry P. Gant, of Bradley Beach, former borough clerk, joined in debate Saturday over the proposed bonding of that town for $10,000 for a municipal building and fire apparatus.

Mr. Bradley appeared as champion for dissatisfied taxpayers, and in answer to a challenge sent out by Gant. The Rev. Henry J. Hayter was referee. The talk was a fiery one.

The general opinion seemed to be that Mr. Bradley carried off the honors, although no decision was given. He said there were rumors of graft around, and that the Bradley Beach officials did not possess sufficient business intelligence to expend $10,000 properly. It is possible that Mr. Bradley will be sued for slander.

Joy Get $5,000.

John Stonacker, the father of Henry Stonacker, deceased, was appointed administrator of his son's estate in the Surrogate's office Tuesday and received a check for $1,500. This was in settlement of his claim for damages against the Erie Railroad Company. At the same time Mrs. Ade E. Joy, the widow of Joseph Joy, of whose estate she is the administratrix, received a check for $5,000 from the company.

The checks were paid over to the claimants by Deputy Surrogate Charles F. Kocher because Stonacker and Joy were the victims of a railroad accident in this town August 20 last.

Job Haines Home for Aged People.

This institution has completed its seventh year. The new building opened in June is filled and the managers desire to put in good repair the adjoining house, formerly occupied, and to secure funds to fill it with couples and old men. To support the present family of thirty-seven and reach out to extended work calls for an income which does not yet flow steadily into the treasury. To replete this treasury the managers are arranging a luncheon, supper and sale to be held in the Young Men's Christian Association Building in Newark on February 11th. Fuller information will be given later.

The Elks' Fair.

Arrangements for the grand fair for the benefit of the charity fund of Bloomfield Lodge Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks are well under way. This fair will be held in Central Hall on the afternoons and evenings of March 16, 17, and 18. A large number of ladies in this town are interested in this fair and are busily engaged in making preparations for it, and from all indications it is going to be one of the most elaborate fairs and exhibits ever held here. There will be no lack of novelties in the way of entertainment.

The members of the Women's Relief Corps gave a luncheon Thursday afternoon, to Mrs. Nork of Vailsburgh, at her home in that place. A feature of the occasion was recitations and songs by Mrs. Carl of Newark.

BURGLARIOUS RAID

Through the Eastern Side of the Town. Several Houses Entered and Two Business Places.—Burglars Blew Open a Safe in one Place and Took a Child's Savings Bank from Another Place.

An old coat of cutaway style and spattered with paint is among a collection of exhibits in the police court that afford a meagre clue to a series of robberies that occurred in this town on Friday night of last week. A razor found in one of the pockets of the coat at first justified the inference that the garment was the property of some colored person, and a box of cigarettes found in another pocket indicated that the colored person was youthful and disposed to be gay. But that theory had to be abandoned when it was learned that the razor was the property of Charles J. Murray, the lumber dealer, and had been stolen from his office. No claimant appeared for the cigarettes.

Friday night's burglarious raid was of the variety order, extending from the highly sensational episode of cracking a safe to the petty act of stealing a child's savings bank. The territory covered was an extensive one, beginning at Frank Hemingway's house on Belleville avenue, and ending at Charles L. Seibert's house on Newark avenue. Places entered besides Mr. Hemingway's and Mr. Seibert's were Mrs. Cockefair's, Eben Griffith's, Charles J. Murray's office, and Spear's turf goods factory. Attempted entries were also made at the residences of James Flanagan and James Flannery. Edward Shields caught a stranger staring in the window of his home in Liberty street Friday night, and Mr. Shields demanded to know what the fellow wanted there, and the stranger fled.

At Frank Hemingway's home on Belleville avenue the thieves gained entrance by prying open a window. An overcoat was stolen from a rack in the hall.

At Charles Murray's lumber yard office in Walnut street the thieves found the safe unlocked, and they took an iron box filled with papers from the safe, and after rummaging through it they threw the box and its contents under a pile of lumber, where it was found next day.

From Mrs. Samuel Cockefair's house in Smith street a child's savings bank containing between four and five dollars was taken.

Candle grease spots on the carpet in several rooms of Eben Griffith's house in Smith street showed that the thieves had been in there, but nothing was taken, although eight dollars lying on the mantel was overlooked by them.

A child's bank was also taken from Charles L. Seibert's house and a pair of pantaloons. The latter were subsequently found in a neighbor's yard.

Shortly after midnight on Friday night a report as if a gun had been shot off in a house startled the residents of Liberty, Hickory and Vine streets, east of the canal. Policeman Moran, who was on duty in that vicinity at the time, heard the report and hastened across the canal bridge to make an investigation. Several people who heard the sound could give no explanation of it. On Saturday morning when Mr. Stevens, who is employed at the Spear turf goods factory, opened that place, he was surprised to find the office in a state of confusion. The safe had been blown open with dynamite and fifty-two dollars in money and some checks stolen from it. A coat taken from the office was found next day by Letter carrier Frank L. Baker on Walnut street. The police are of the opinion that a gang of burglars came out from New York Friday night and made a raid through the eastern part of the town.

Loyal Association.

A very large number of members of America Council, No. 53, Loyal Association, assembled in Central Hall on Friday evening, the 22d inst., to listen to an address by Supreme Recorder Frank S. Petter of Jersey City. He gave a history of the association since its organization, and proved by actual figures that while it was one of the youngest fraternal associations it has a reserve per capita more than twice that of any other similar order.

The following officers for 1904 were installed by the Grand Vice-Councilor: Councilor, J. Howard Hardcastle; Vice-Councilor, Edward J. Hughes; Orator, G. B. S. Mead; Past-Councilor, R. B. Zabriskie; Recorder, S. C. Hamilton; Chaplain, Wm. Krenrich; Collector, G. M. Wood; Treasurer, Wm. L. Johnson; Marshal, Wright L. Gilbert; Guardian, Frank H. Baker; Sentinel, E. D. Ackerman; Trustee, F. H. Baker.

Hospital Contributors.

Contributors to the Mountainside Hospital in January are Mrs. Henry V. Allien, Mrs. Perses E. Curtis, Mrs. E. C. Dodd, Mrs. R. Bromley, Mr. Joseph Garlock—Cash.

TOWN COUNCIL.

Action on the Fire House Question Postponed at the Adjourned Meeting Held Friday Night.—A Long and Exciting Conference of the Members of the Council.

The Town Council held an adjourned meeting Friday night The fire house proposition was the topic considered. Many firemen were present and anticipated action by the Council in favor of the purchase of R. N. Dodd's property in Glenwood avenue. The vote of the members of Essex Truck Company, and Phœnix Hose Company on Thursday night of last week in favor of that site was regarded as effectually deciding the question of a site. The result of a canvass among the members of the Council, it was claimed, showed that five members of that body were disposed to vote in favor of the R. N. Dodd property.

It was known before the Council met that Messrs. Moore and Walker of the Council would oppose a final disposition of the matter on Friday night, but the firemen were confident that the majority of the Councilmen favored the purchase of that property, and there was good reason to expect that a decisive vote would be taken.

The Councilmen gathered, as is their custom, in the Town Clerk's office for a general talk previous to the formal meeting. The discussion in the clerk's office was an animated one, and to the anxious firemen patiently waiting in the Council room, the talk appeared to be an interminable one. As the time went on and the Councilmen did not appear at their desks, the firemen began to scent trouble and were not so confident that the matter would be settled Friday night.

It was a quarter to ten o'clock when the Councilmen filed out of the clerk's office and took their seats at their respective desks. Chairman Farrand of the Fire Committee made the disappointing announcement that the Council had decided to postpone action on the fire-house project until the next meeting of the Council. Councilman Conlan announced that he had agreed to the temporary postponement, but it was not to extend beyond the next meeting of the Council, as he would force a vote on the matter at that meeting.

By what manner and method the minority succeeded in forcing the majority to agree to a postponement Friday night is of course only a matter of conjecture, but it is said that the scene in the clerk's office was at times intensely exciting.

It is said that the Councilmen finally agreed to a postponement in order to give Councilman Moore an opportunity to present a scheme for a municipal building to the Council next Monday night, which, he claims, will be more advantageous to the town both as to location and serviceableness.

Minstrel and Vaudeville.

The members of Court Bloomfield Centre, No. 3,220, Independent Order of Foresters, are going to give an entertainment and dance in Central Hall on Wednesday evening, February 3. On this occasion the Progressive Minstrel and Vaudeville Company of Newark will appear under the auspices of the local court. This troup of entertainers is composed of members of the Order of Foresters and has given numerous entertainments throughout the State for the benefit of the lodges of this order. The troup comes highly recommended and assurances are given of an enjoyable minstrel and vaudeville show by proficient comedians and vocalists. The entertainment will be followed by a social dance, for which purpose an orchestra of eight musicians has been engaged. General admission tickets can be procured from members of the court for 25 cents, or reserved seats 35 cents. The officers of Court Bloomfield Centre are as follows: Charles Philbrick, Chief Ranger; Emil Raemsch, Vice-Chief Ranger; Anthony Rensing, Court Deputy; Charles Dunn, Recording Secretary; Fred Storms, Jr., Financial Secretary; Alfred Birch, Treasurer. Parties desiring reserved seats will find a diagram of the hall at Fronapfel's hardware store, Bloomfield Centre, where reserved seats can be obtained.

A Grecian Tea.

The Young Ladies' Guild will give a Grecian Tea at Ascension Chapel on Wednesday evening, February 3, at 8 o'clock. Every one that wants to have a nice time and to be treated well should improve this opportunity. Anything at Ascension Chapel always commends itself in view of past success, especially when the Young Ladies' Guild is in charge of it.

Westminster Presbyterian Church.

The ordination and installation of ruling elders and deacon will be a part of the morning service, Mr. Matthew McCroddan and Mr. Joseph M. Williams having been elected elders, and Mr. Edgar S. Kidder, deacon. The pastor will preach in the evening.

Park Choral Union Concert.

The Park Choral Union will give the first concert of its second season in the Park M. E. Church on Thursday evening, February 4. The programme arranged for that occasion is an excellent one and includes the following selections: Song of the Vikings, *Fanning*; Moonlight, *Fanning*; Oh Italia, Italia Beloved, from Lucrezia; So Saith My Fair, *Luca Morenzo*; Good Night, Farewell, *Garrett*. Mr. Robert Warnack will conduct the concert. The Union will be assisted by Mrs. Nellie Bennett Fugle of Arlington, soprano; Mr. W. Gordon Gaunt, basso; Mr. Milton H. Gruet, violinist, and Miss Mary Berstecher, pianist.

The Park Choral Union's past concert, it will be remembered, was much enjoyed by a large audience, and the society was warmly congratulated over its fine work. Thursday night's concert promises to eclipse that of last year. The chorus, numbering about forty voices, has had frequent rehearsals, and those who have attended say that a good musical treat is in store for the people of this town Thursday night.

The soloists engaged for the concert are artists of superior merit and the soprano soloist in particular enjoys a high reputation as a vocalist.

The Choral Union has been put to considerable expense in arranging for this concert, and in order to defray these expenses an admission charge of fifty cents will be made.

The Park Choral Union is an organization that should meet with liberal encouragement on the part of the general public. The work it is engaged in is of value and benefit to the town in a social way aside from its instructive benefits to the young people in one of the most worthy arts.

The Park M. E. Church ought to be crowded Thursday night and the young people given an appreciative encouragement that will stimulate them along the line of the praiseworthy work they have undertaken.

A Sunday Afternoon Fire.

A dangerous fire was prevented Sunday afternoon by the prompt work of Chief Engineer Bernard Higgins and the volunteer firemen. The blaze originated in an Italian barber shop in the middle of a row of frame buildings owned by William J. Raab, at Bloomfield avenue and Orange street. The origin of the fire is a mystery, but it spread between the rafters and the ceiling, and several times Raab's Hotel was threatened. Had that structure caught fire the entire block between Orange and Race streets might have been destroyed.

Chief Engineer Higgins fought the flames from points where he could do the most good.

The stock of the Misses Raab, milliners, was badly damaged, as was that of an Italian shoemaker next to the barber shop. A. Lousie's fruit store on the corner escaped damage.

Robert Foster and A. F. Olsen of Active Hose Company did excellent service in shutting off the gas after the meter had been torn out. The gas was in a blaze and a big can of gasoline exploded, making the work of the firemen especially hazardous.

When Foreman Unangst of Essex Hook and Ladder Company pulled the burning rafters down the blazing mass struck the gasoline and there was an explosion. No one was hurt.

Charles A. Harrington did effective work on the roof, and, in fact, all the firemen did splendid service.

For some reason the bell refused to sound an alarm and the firemen were called out by blasts on the whistles. The damage was about $800, and is covered by insurance.

Bishop's Reception.

There was a large attendance at the annual parish rally of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, East Orange, in the parish rooms Monday night. Bishop and Mrs. Lines were present, and the guests also included several prominent clergymen. The guests were welcomed by the rector, the Rev. William P. Taylor. The address of the evening was delivered by Bishop Lines on "The Relative Significance of the Church and the Parish." He expressed the hope that a close personal relationship might grow up between himself and the members of the diocese.

The musical program included three glees by the members of St. Margaret's Guild, the choir and the choral society of St. Agnes Guild. At the conclusion of the program refreshments were served and an informal reception was given to Bishop and Mrs. Lines.

Elaborate arrangements are being made for the annual banquet of the men of the church to be held in the parish room Thursday evening, February 11. Addresses will be made by several prominent speakers.

PROTECT your securities and valuable papers against FIRE and BURGLARS by renting a box in the Safe Deposit Vaults of The Bloomfield National Bank. Boxes to rent at $4.00 per year and upwards.—*Adot.*

THE FIRE DEPARTMENT.

NEGLECT OF AN IMPORTANT DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT CHARGED.

The Firemen are Poorly Housed and Not Fully Equipped—Some Reasons Why the Town Should Purchase the R. N. Dodd Building—It Affords An Opportunity for Economy in the Administration of Public Affairs.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CITIZEN:

SIR: It may be trite to say that in some features of municipal government the people of the town are confronted with conditions and not theories; but no matter how threadbare the phrase may be, it, as applied here, expresses a concrete fact. With all due respect to those who have been responsible for the administration of government here in years past, and those who are now responsible, it must be admitted that in some departments of local government the conditions are deplorable. An investigation of facts might well warrant the use, without exaggeration, of a much stronger term, particularly if an inquiry were to be instituted to ascertain under what conditions and circumstances the local volunteer Fire Department is maintained. The public business, as a rule, is nobody's business, and public indifference to matters of government is the bane of most American communities, Bloomfield not excepted.

The majority of our townsmen, who suffer momentary excitement when the fire-bell rings, and who in time of danger admire and applaud the brave and efficient work of the firemen, are doubtless unaware of the wretched manner in which their fire companies are housed and equipped. Good citizens would undoubtedly be indignant if they would take the trouble to personally ascertain the conditions to which the firemen are subjected. Abstractly, everybody admits that the Fire Department represents one of the most important functions of local government, and in theory all concede that it should be maintained in a manner commensurate with its value as a life and property-saving institution. But the weak point in the public's understanding of its duty in public affairs is that it rarely goes beyond the theoretical stage. Few are disposed to personally investigate the conduct of public business. The idea generally acted upon is that the exercise of his elective franchise by a citizen fulfils his whole duty in such matters. As a consequence of this in our town, an excellent volunteer Fire Department which, in point of prompt response and efficient service, has been excelled by none in the State, is housed in about as wretched a manner as it is possible to conceive of. The actual condition of affairs is a sad and serious reproach to the people of Bloomfield. There is no exaggeration in using condemnatory terms in criticising the local government for the unfair, unjust and unrighteous treatment of the firemen.

While the question of municipal ownership, considered in a broad sense, may be a theoretical question, and opinions may differ as to its practicability or financial economy, there are particular cases in which its application is a necessity, and in which its advisability is beyond dispute. The municipal ownership of fire-houses is one of these indisputable cases, and the only proper and wise solution of the fire-house problem with which the Town Council has been struggling is municipal ownership of the fire-houses. The Council need have no fear but what public sentiment will approve and support the application of the theory of municipal ownership, to that extent at least.

Now there being no question of the need of new fire-houses, and there being no doubt at all that public sentiment favors town's ownership of fire-houses, it is obvious that it would be desirable and proper for the Council to exercise its right to issue bonds for the purpose of acquiring funds with which to purchase property and erect fire houses.

The mere mention of bonds will of course give some taxpayers a severe nervous shock. There is in every community a class of people who are known as progressivists. Their enthusiastic zeal for living in a progressive and up-to-date community is of a radical character, and they are disposed to run to an excess in public expenditure, provided it can be done by the method of issuing bonds. It is but right that such people should have their zeal restrained. Opposed to these there is in every community a class of people whose so-called conservatism is but another name for unreasonable timidity, and if their overcautiousness were permitted to rule in all matters of public interest no progress would be possible.

Between these unwise extremes is a middle class possessed of sound sense and habituated to act in all matters, public and private, from a practical point of view. They can sum up and weigh and compare the "pros" and

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